

O 300048Z OCT 04  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE  
SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE  
USLO TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 233493

FOR COM, RSO AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/29/14  
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#)  
SUBJECT: BIN LADEN VIDEOTAPE

REF: TDX-315/59142-04

Classified By: ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DS GREG  
STARR; REASON 1.5 (C) AND (D)

¶1. (U) ON OCTOBER 29, THE AL-JAZEERA NETWORK BROADCASTED A VIDEOTAPE MESSAGE FROM USAMA BIN LADEN WITH A SIMULTANEOUS ENGLISH TRANSLATION. THE TAPE, WHICH IS THE FIRST TIME UBL HAS BEEN SEEN SINCE DECEMBER 2001, INCLUDES MENTION OF A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT SUBJECTS TO INCLUDE IRAQ AND THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

¶2. (S/NF) THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ASSESSES THAT THIS TAPE IS AUTHENTIC AND RELATIVELY RECENT GIVEN THE REFERENCES TO CURRENT EVENTS, PERHAPS WITHIN THE LAST MONTH. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS IS A HARBINGER OF AN ATTACK, OR IS INTENDED TO BOOST AL-QA'IDA MORALE AND INSPIRE LOWER-LEVEL ACTIONS WORLDWIDE. THE RELEASE OF THE TAPE MAY ALSO BE EITHER AN EFFORT TO ENERGIZE AND REASSURE THE GROUP AND ITS SUPPORT BASE, OR POSSIBLY A SIGNAL FOR CELLS TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS. EVEN IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF UBL'S APPEARANCE AND HIS CASTIGATION OF US POLICY, THIS TAPE COULD BE AN INFLUENCE TO INCITE TERRORIST VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS WORLDWIDE. THERE ARE ALSO SOME INDICATIONS THAT THIS UBL TAPE IS PART OF A WIDER AL-QA'IDA MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE RUN-UP TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

¶3. (S/NF) FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, CORE EAC MEMBERS SHOULD OBTAIN REFTEL FROM RMAS TO REVIEW IN ITS ENTIRETY. FINAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE TAPE IS STILL UNDER REVIEW AND ANY SIGNIFICANT UPDATED ANALYSIS WILL BE ISSUED SEPTEL. IN LIGHT OF THIS INFORMATION, POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE AND CONTINUE TO ASSESS THEIR SECURITY POSTURE.

¶4. (SBU) POSTS ARE REMINDED THAT WHILE THE TAPE IS PUBLIC, THE AFOREMENTIONED ANALYSIS INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED BEYOND THOSE WITH A NEED TO KNOW FOR SECURITY PURPOSES AND SHOULD NOT BE SHARED WITH THE PUBLIC. IF POSTS BELIEVE THEY NEED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMUNITIES, THEY SHOULD USE LANGUAGE IN CONSULAR INFORMATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTS, SPECIFICALLY THE WORLDWIDE CAUTION PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND COUNTRY SPECIFIC TRAVEL WARNINGS AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS. IF POSTS NEED TO ISSUE WARDEN MESSAGES WHICH ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF EXISTING PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, PLEASE CLEAR THEM WITH CA/OCS, AVAILABLE 24 HOURS.

¶5. (U) MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

POWELL